

Message Text

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65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3801

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, SOPN, BR

SUBJECT: SEMINAR ON BRAZIL

REF: STATE 17897

1. SEMINAR ON BRAZIL HELD IN DEPARTMENT ON JANUARY 19-20
DREW LIMITED NATIONAL PRESS ATTENTION IN BRAZIL. JORNAL DE
BRASIL ON JANUARY 22 HAD BRIEF TWO PARAGRAPH ARTICLE STATING
MEETING HAD BEEN HELD IN SECRET AND THAT IT CONSISTED PRINCIPALLY
OF EXECUTIVES OF AMERICAN COMPANIES WITH SUBSIDIARIES
IN BRAZIL. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, ON JANUARY 27, RAN TWO
BYLINED ARTICLES BY SERGION M.MELLO WHICH CORRECTLY CHARACTERIZED
THE SEMINAR AS THE FIRST IN A SERIES THE STATE
DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ON DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. THE WEEKLY
NEWS MAGAZINE VEJA, IN ITS JANUARY 28 ISSUE, ADDED LITTLE
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE SEMINAR OTHER
THAN TO IDENTIFY CERTAIN PARTICIPANTS.

2. VEJA REPORTED THAT ONE OF THE US GOVERNMENT PARTICIPANTS
STRESSED THAT THE INFLUENCE OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY WAS VERY
SMALL IN BRAZIL. THE ESTADO ARTICLES ALSO ALLUEDED TO
LACK OF INFLUENCE QUOTING AN UNIDENTIFIED DEPARTMENT
OFFICER AS SAYING THAT THE TIME IN WHICH THE US COULD
DEAL THE CARDS HAD ALREADY PASSED. IN GENERAL AMERICAN
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BUSINESS GROUPS IN BRAZIL WERE IN A MUCH BETTER CONDITION

OF BEING HEARD BY THE GOVERNMENT.

3. BOTH THE ESTADO ARTICLES AND THE VEJA ARTICLE LEAVE THE READER WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WAS ONE OF THE MAJOR CONCERNS OF THE SEMINAR, AT LEAST OF MANY OF THE INVITEES. REFERENCE WAS MADE TO THE RELIGIOUS, FOUNDATION, AND ACADEMIC PARTICIPANTS' CRITICAL INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. ESTADO GAVE EQUAL TIME BUT SECOND PLACE TO THE SEMINAR'S DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC ASPECTS IN ITS ANALYTICAL ARTICLE ON THE SEMINAR. A HIGH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE, IN COMMENTING ON SOME US BUSINESSES' DISPLEASURE WITH RECENT GOB IMPORT RESTRICTIONS, SUGGESTED THESE RESTRICTIONS COULD HAVE POSITIVE EFFECTS. MULTINATIONAL BUSINESSES WITH INVESTMENTS IN BRAZIL WOULD BE OBLIGED TO INVEST MORE IN PROGRAMS OF IMPORT SUBSTITUTIONS, WITH NEW INJECTIONS OF CAPITAL AND A CONSEQUENT REACTIVATION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET. ANOTHER ECONOMIC THEME TOUCHED UPON IN THE PRESS ACCOUNTS HERE WAS THE INEQUITABLE INCOME DISTRIBUTION IN BRAZIL.

5. EMBASSY HAS NO REASON TO EXPECT MUCH FURTHER PUBLIC ATTENTION IN BRAZIL TO THE SEMINAR. ON BALANCE, THE PUBLICITY RECEIVED HERE SHOULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT INsofar AS IT DEMONSTRATES THE SERIOUS US INTEREST IN BRAZIL BEYOND THE CONFINES OF WASHINGTON AND SERVES NOTICE THAT THE DEPARTMENT INTERACTS WITH A VARIED CONSTITUENCY.
CRIMMINS

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